

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated February 14, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are now all the claims pending in the present application.

I. Rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nakamichi

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamichi (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,368).

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “wherein the surfaces of metal parts of the housing portion comprise a surface region of a metallic base portion of the drive apparatus and an inner surface of a metallic upper lid of the housing portion” which is not disclosed in Nakamichi. For at least this reason, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be deemed allowable.

Further, Applicant submits that it would not have been obvious to apply a non-metallic coating having a low frictional coefficient to Nakamichi. The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to modify Nakamichi to utilize a coating in place of making a guide entirely of the low friction material since these are recognized as equivalents that operate in the same manner and produce the same result without any unexpected results.

Nakamichi is directed to a CD drive of a disk player, whereas an exemplary embodiment of the present invention is directed to a PC card drive. A PC card drive is much smaller than the CD drive, therefore, the compactness of the drive is an aspect of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Therefore, there is no motivation to modify Nakamichi to use the non-metallic material as merely a coating on the surface of the structure. In the present invention, since the non-metallic coating is provided on the surfaces of metal parts, even if the thickness of the non-metallic coating is thin, the overall structure can be durable, and the size of the entire PC card drive becomes small. In view of the above, the present invention would not have been obvious from Nakamichi. Consequently, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be deemed allowable.

Claim 2

In rejecting claim 2, the Examiner asserts that the Duracon material disclosed in Nakamichi is included in the list of materials recited in claim 2. Duracon is POM polyoxymethylene (polyacetal resin). Therefore, Duracon is different from any of the materials recited in claim 2 of the present invention. Consequently, claim 2 should be deemed allowable.

II. Rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Smith

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,180).

Claims 1 and 2 should be deemed allowable for the same reasons indicated above with respect to Nakamichi. Claim 1 now recites "wherein the surfaces of metal parts of the housing portion comprise a surface region of a metallic base portion of the drive apparatus and an inner surface of a metallic upper lid of the housing portion" which is not disclosed in Smith. Consequently, claims 1 and 2 should be deemed allowable.

Further, Smith is directed to a magnetic tape cartridge drive, which is much larger than a PC card drive. Therefore, the present invention would not have been obvious from Smith.

III. New claims

Applicant has added claims 3-6 to provide a more varied scope of protection. Claim 3 combines the subject matter of original claim 1 and the subject matter of claim 2, excluding the Teflon graphites. Since the subject matter of claims 3 and 4 is not disclosed in the cited art, they should be deemed allowable.

Claims 5 and 6 recite that the magnetic disk cartridge has a rotary shutter. Claims 5 and 6 should be deemed allowable by virtue of their dependency to claims 1 and 3 for the reasons set forth above.

IV. Conclusion

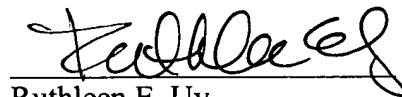
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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